

## The Bhurpore at Aston - 4th September 2019

From Chris L...

Brian L's ride to The Bhurpore at Aston had tones that even Boris would be proud of - original plan had been to go to the Cotton Arms in Wrenbury but protracted negotiations ended in **No Deal!** Since no **Withdrawal Agreement** had been signed the **Bhurpore** stepped in with a sandwich and chips deal that allowed us to keep our trading rights intact - better tell **Brian** to be on standby for **Brussels!**

Politics aside, we were all keeping an eye on the forecast for rain and wind - thirteen turned up at **Eureka** where the sun fooled us by shining (even though it had been raining when I left **Bebington**) - jacket off and dark glasses (silly me!) - as we headed out towards **Woodbank**, **Chris S** decided to turn in to Chapel Lane; most of us only realised he was missing on **Lodge Lane** where we stopped to contact him. I took this opportunity to don my jacket & replace dark with brighter specs. When **Chris** rejoined us we split in to two groups as **Brian** had sent two routes, the longer 'A' ride with an extra four miles - otherwise similar routes.



Fortunately this included a much needed coffee stop in **Holt**, (17 miles) **Cleopatra's** being aware of our imminent arrival, there was a sign outside asking people to 'give a cyclist a hug' - this nearly came to pass as a rain shower found me sitting at a table just outside the umbrella cover and **Chris** just under this - let's just say we are good friends and leave it there! I think **Cleopatra's** were expecting the 'B' group but as we passed the new coffee shop in **Farndon (Lewis's?)** I noticed some bikes outside.....

After several crossings of the A41 between **Tilston** and **No Mans Heath**, the route took us up to **Bickerton** (gasp), across the A49 to **Bickley Moss** (stopped to remove coat) and a smooth run in to **Wrenbury** (passed the **Cotton Arms** - although there was no Hard border). We passed the 'B' group here and on to **Aston** and the **Bhurpore** (38 miles, av. 14.1mph 302 mtr). Sandwiches were ready, chips had to wait as they were freshly prepared - also those partaking were faced with a multitudinous choice of beers - they obviously have a free trade agreement with several breweries - not wasting any time with customs union here! The 'C' groups arrived not too long after us (ably led by **Dave W** and had come from the **Ice Cream Farm** (some suspect there may be a



commission deal here) had similar numbers (I counted twenty-six in all at the pub, but can be corrected)

We were first to leave although we'd only gone a couple of miles when **Peter L** had a flat so we all watched apart from **Paul M** who helped and **Richard** who'd done his usual disappearing act; after plenty of advice regarding quality of tubes, myself hearing the hiss of escaping air from the culprit and Mari finding the hole (eventually), all was fixed. **Brian** had passed us but we saw no sign of anyone else!

On we went skirting **Nantwich** - fairly flat until we hit the hills past **Eaton** and **Utkinton**, the wind was starting to pick up and we just got in to **Okells** for a tea and cake stop

when the heavens opened briefly (it was all sunshine by the time we sat down - 61 miles) Here **Tony S**, **Brian** etc came in too for a very welcome cuppa!

Over too soon, as we left **Richard** he decided he needed a raincoat whilst the others shot off, the lights over the **Gowy** scrubbing out the distance we'd regained - it was **Waverton** before we caught up! **Paul M** carried on when we turned for **Christleton** and **Richard** left us on the **Greenway**. If I'd known the wind was going to be so strong I would have gone to the **ICF** with the others, got a lift back and driven down there to collect my bike later! I found the last ten miles quite gruelling and only put this down to the number of rides I've missed this summer (rained off or otherwise).





Thanks for the ride Brian, 77 miles for me (Chris did just over 100) with 2400 ft - I had severe cramp on Wednesday evening (I only had 1 pint - honest guv!) - with Richard B and four others at The Bhurpore Inn.

**Text Chris L**

**Photos Chris L**